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He'll Be in the Headlines

By Peter Edson



He was picked for this job because he is well known to Secretary of State Christian A. Herter and Undersecretary Douglas Dillon. His selection was something of a surprise because he is neither a career diplomat nor a recognized disarmament authority. But he is by no means inexperienced in either field.



Mr. Eaton

Also, he got broken in on dealing with Allied powers. He has continued this practice of international law as counsel and director of Monsanto Chemical, Owens Corning Fiberglass and other companies, working on their overseas operations.

NEW YORK corporation lawyer Fredrick M. Eaton is the new man whose name will soon be much in the headlines. He is chairman and chief negotiator for the U. S. delegation to the 10-power disarmament conference opening in Geneva March 15. The system seems to be that they throw a new gladiator into these international lions' dens till he's beaten down, then send in a replacement.

Ambassador Eaton is a 54-year-old Harvard graduate from Akron, O. He is a balding, pleasant-faced citizen, in the pink physically as a golfer, hunter and fisherman. He looks as if he can give as good as he gets.

Mr. Eaton came to Washington in 1940 as general counsel of National Defense Advisory Commission. He stayed on for five years, ending as War Production Board general counsel. He was also U. S. member of the combined Raw Materials, Production and Resources boards. He got his initiation dealing with the Russians then.

In 1950 Mr. Eaton began his co-operation with the Ford Foundation's "World Peace Thru Law" studies, conducted by Granville Clark and Louis E. Sohn. Their comprehensive report was published by Harvard in 1953. It sets forth the broad foundations for conditions necessary to obtain if disarmament is ever to succeed in this naughty world. So the new man knows his way here, too.

Before going to Geneva, Ambassador Eaton must go to Paris next week to present the Western disarmament plan to North Atlantic Treaty Organization and get its backing.

In the coming negotiations, the job of keeping the Western powers in agreement on policy will be just as important as trying to reach agreement with the communists.

The teams line up this way: WEST—America, Britain, Canada, France, Italy; EAST—Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Rumania and Russia. Nobody knows who will represent the other powers and may not know till they see who gets off the airplanes landing at Geneva.

The American team will be small—about 15 experts as compared to the 50 who took part in earlier disarmament confabs. Ambassador Eaton's advisers include:

Charles Stelle, W. McMurtrie Godley, Malcolm Toom and Robert Matteson of State Department; Admiral Paul Dudley, special assistant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for disarmament; Air Force Col. Thomas W. Wolfe, Navy Capt Willard de L. Michael, Army Lieut. Col. Harry N. Tabor and others.

All have had long experience in disarmament affairs. Some worked with Ambassador James J. Wadsworth and Ex. Gov. Harold E. Stassen in earlier negotiations. They also assisted Boston lawyer Charles E. Coolidge in preparing his special report to the President and the Secretaries of State and Defense on U. S. disarmament plans.